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JASIONE MONTANA A CONSPICUOUS WEED NEAR LAKEWOOD, NEW JERSEY.

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AMONG certain plants received for identification at the Philadelphia Academy during the winter of 1917 was a specimen of *Jasione montana*, said to have been collected the previous summer near Lakewood, New Jersey, by Miss Florence Beckwith of the Rochester Academy of Science.

This striking species is well known about Newport, Rhode Island, especially on Conanicut Island, but elsewhere, apparently (although recognized as occurring from Massachusetts to New York) it has been noted as a very unusual plant.¹ The Lakewood specimen was received through Mr. O. H. Brown of Cape May City. Through his interest and the kindly response of Miss Beckwith it was learned that the plant had been found in a sandy field, sparsely covered with grass and weeds, along the River Road (leading toward Toms River) about two miles out from Lakewood. It was said to be not infrequent in this field but observed nowhere else. With the assurance that the

¹ In fact, although there is an historical occurrence of it at Philadelphia, it has apparently never even been recorded from here. It was doubtless among the rarest of ballast ground waifs, as the only extant material, to the best of my knowledge, is a single specimen at the University of Pennsylvania from "Girard Point (on ballast) Phila.," collected by Isaac Burk, probably about the 60's. The occurrence in New York is in all probability similarly historical rather than actual. Mr. Norman Taylor, in his *Flora of the Vicinity of New York*, notes it "Rare as a waif. . . near the City of New York," but Mr. Percy Wilson has recently written me from the New York Botanical Garden, on my inquiry, "We have only one specimen labelled *Jasione montana* in the local collection. This was collected in ballast grounds at Hunter's Point, New York, in 1879." In the authoritative *Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Connecticut* it is reported as rare in that state, two stations being noted, but is definitely placed in a carefully compiled list of *Fugitive Species*. Probably as little may be said for its occurrence in Massachusetts.

specimen was not a single casual picked out of a clover-field or some similar habitat, the occurrence was considered likely to prove of sufficient interest to warrant a trip to Lakewood — with the hope of being able to rediscover the plant and learn its actual status at this new locality.

On arriving at Lakewood, June 22, 1917, the River Road, or River Avenue, was easily located and a course toward Toms River pursued. It was seen that originally, doubtless, this road ran through pine and oak barrens chiefly, but being one of the main highways through Lakewood to the shore it has become an improved road and much of the natural woods adjacent has given way to cleared land about scattered houses. When little more than a half-mile out of Lakewood my glance fell upon a little group of spindly-stemmed plants (and rosettes) growing along the roadside in the partial shade of a close row of Norway Spruces. They were at once recognized as the desired *Jasione montana*, and although there was a natural disappointment in finding the plants still only in small bud, the discovery itself furnished sufficient satisfaction to make the trip already successful. The best developed plants of the colony were collected for specimens and some rosettes carefully dug for growing. In an endeavor to get out of the heat and glare of a day like midsummer, while putting the specimens in press and wrapping up the rosettes, I crawled in under the spruces. Glancing through the low-hanging branches into the open beyond, I was attracted by the semblance of a blue haze lying low over the ground. To a Philadelphian, "Bluebottles" at once instinctively came to mind. Fields and meadows blued with *Muscari botryoides* are familiar sights in but few places outside the Philadelphia area, however, and the simile may convey little to the generality of botanists. But those to whom this sight has been granted will have a definite point of comparison — and the only one which was suggested to me as I gazed across this acre or more of *Jasione montana*.

Closer inspection showed a field of the most sandy, sterile character, evidently once cultivated but now lying fallow. Here and there among more common weeds were *Potentilla argentea* and *P. recta*, but the dominant plant, occurring in thousands upon thousands, was the *Jasione*. A more dry, torrid, and apparently sterile habitat could scarcely be imagined, but here these plants were flourishing in the greatest luxuriance. They were mostly in their first bloom, a few of the most robust getting into fruit.

The species is a quite curious and unique one in our flora and at first glance suggests little of its alliance to our Harebell and other Bellflowers of the genus *Campanula*. With its tiny flowers in close, hemispheric heads subtended by an involucre it more nearly simulates a Composite. The handsome pale blue of the corolla is strikingly offset in the fresh flower by a pink, exserted, club-shaped body which proves to be the stigma. No less curious are the rounded, burlike fruiting heads, prickly with the pointed, persistent calyx-lobes topping the capsules.

Having in mind that the original station was said to be about two miles out from Lakewood it seemed worth while to continue further along the River Road. Within a short distance another spot was seen where the plant was frequent, then a third, a fourth, till at least a dozen distinct stations were noted between Lakewood and Seven Stars School, three miles south — some of thousands of plants, some few, of course. It was found most frequent within a mile or a mile and a half of Lakewood — a common and conspicuous plant — apparently disappearing as Seven Stars was approached.

The most characteristic habitats were open, sandy areas — old fallow fields, neglected gardens, dooryards, roadsides — in general, cleared areas associated with settlement and cultivation. One station of a particularly interesting type was observed within a mile of Lakewood. Some years ago this spot was evidently cleared and a wide road run through in the process of "land improvement." Now there is only a narrow wagon track winding through the sand and the cleared area is growing up with Pines and Oaks and the regular pine-barren types of the adjacent native flora. In some places the woodland has already come back; in others are only thickets; nearest the River Road is still open sand, characterized by *Euphorbia Ipecacuanhae*, *Eupatorium album*, *Carex pennsylvanica*. In this association, in the most sterile, sun-scorched sand, as well as among the thickets of young Pitch Pine and Sassafras, and in the shade of the woods, *Jasione montana* is very frequent and has all the appearance of a native plant — so thoroughly has it adapted itself here. The much greater robustness of the plants in the open sun is clearly indicative of its preferred habitat but its occurrence in the woods shows it to be tolerant of varying conditions.

In the course of my ramblings about one of the larger colonies a farmer was encountered. Upon inquiry whether the plant in his

field had recently come in and if he had ever seen it elsewhere, he assured me that the "Blue-weed" has been frequent about Lakewood for twenty-five years and is said to be elsewhere in Monmouth County. Such information may be taken for what it is worth, but the frequency and thorough establishment of the plant along the River Road south of Lakewood is at least suggestive of the possible verity of this fuller statement.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA.

TSUGA AMERICANA (MILL.) FARWELL, A FINAL WORD.

OLIVER A. FARWELL.

IN RHODORA for October, 1918, pages 185-8, Mr. Tidestrom argues for the retention of the name *Tsuga Canadensis* (L.) Carr. for the Hemlock Spruce on the grounds that Linnaeus, in 1739, assisted in writing up the description of the plant for Gronovius's *Flora Virginica*, 1743, and hence was familiar with the species and therefore the element Linnaeus knew should be considered as the type; also that the word *submembranaceis* of the description excludes the White Spruce from consideration. He fails to prove, however, that the White Spruce was not equally known to Linnaeus; he only supposes that it was not. He says:—"That Linnaeus meant that his *P. Canadensis* should stand for a Spruce as we understand this genus is out of the question." Since Linnaeus included the "Spruce" as an element of his *Pinus Canadensis* it is rather astonishing, to say the least, to learn, "That Linnaeus meant it, is out of the question." Philip Miller, a contemporary of Linnaeus and a botanist of no mean ability, ranking perhaps in his day as second only to the distinguished Swede, and one who probably knew as much as any about the then current concept of species, certainly understood *Pinus Canadensis* Linn. to be the White Spruce. Note the description of each:—

PINUS CANADENSIS, Linn.
Pinus foliis solitariis linearibus
obtusiusculis submembranaceis.

ABIES CANADENSIS, Miller.
Abies (Canadensis) foliis linearibus
obtusiusculis submembranaceis.

With the exception of the word *solitariis* these descriptions are identical and it is *self-evident* that Miller adopted the specific name and